

Get to
know the

i-codes

This is the seventh in a series of publications exploring the differences between the Uniform and International Codes (I-Codes). Topics covered in the series include means of egress, building uses, heights and areas, types of construction, fire-resistance-rated assemblies, accessibility, structural provisions, and the residential and mechanical codes. Additional topics may be added in 2004.

Structural Provisions

New I-Codes in 2004

The 2003 editions of the International Building, Residential, Mechanical and Fire Codes (I-Codes) will replace the Uniform Codes this summer.* DPD expects the I-Codes to take effect in Seattle in late summer 2004.

You may use the I-Codes before Seattle formally adopts them, but should call (206) 684-8850 for a pre-submittal conference before proceeding with design. You can choose to use either the I-Codes or the Uniform Codes during the 60-day period after the effective date.

The Seattle amendments to the I-Codes will be available by the effective date from DPD's Public Resource Center, 20th floor, Seattle Municipal Tower, (206) 684-8467.

Questions? Call DPD technical support line at (206) 684-4630, 1-4:15 p.m., M-F.

Purchasing Codes

- WA Assn. of Building Officials (360) 586-6725, www.wabo.org
- International Code Council (800) 284-4406, www.iccsafe.org

Code Trainings

- WA Assn. of Building Officials (360) 586-6725, www.wabo.org
- International Code Council (800) 284-4406, www.iccsafe.org
- American Inst. of Architects-Seattle (206) 448-4938 www.aiaseattle.org
- Structural Engineers Assn. of WA (206) 682-6026, www.seaw.org
- Building Industry Assn. of WA (360) 352-7800, www.biaaw.com
- Master Builders Assn. of King and Snohomish Counties (425) 451-7920 www.mba-ks.com

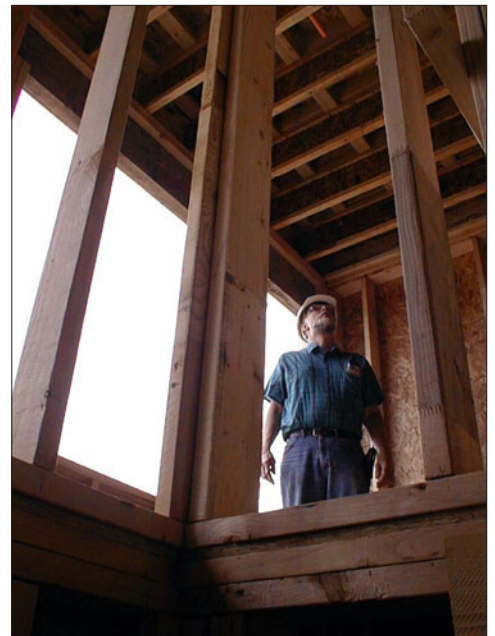
Structural Provisions of the IBC

The structural chapters of the International Building Code (IBC) are Chapters 16-23, and govern general structural design of structures, as well as soils, foundations and materials. They differ from the Uniform Building Code (UBC) in several important ways.

One of the most significant differences between the UBC and the IBC is found in Chapter 16. The IBC incorporates the latest seismic design principles, and is based on the American Society of Civil Engineers Standard 7 (ASCE 7). In the IBC, there are no seismic zones; instead, buildings are assigned to a "seismic design category." Generally speaking, seismic design under the IBC is based on more site-specific criteria. Seattle is proposing to adopt code changes approved for the 2006 IBC that delete the "simplified" seismic design provisions. The IBC simplified provisions have been found to be overly long and awkward, and are being replaced by a reference to a simplified seismic design procedure in the ASCE 7.

Design of structures for wind loads is also required to comply with the ASCE 7. The ASCE 7 wind provisions are more complex than the UBC provisions. It is also more site-specific, taking into account local topography and constructed features. A simplified wind load method is available for some structures.

The IBC materials chapters (19-23) adopt the most current editions of industry standards. The standards are adopted by reference, greatly reducing the extent of the provisions found in the IBC, but increasing the need for designers to refer to the standards instead of relying entirely on the code. Designers and builders should also note that there are some changes to the provisions for conventional light-frame wood construction.



Chapter 16 of the IBC assigns buildings to a "seismic design category."



City of Seattle
Department of Planning and Development
700 5th Ave., Suite 2000
P.O. Box 34019
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

Visit DPD's new
Technical Codes website:
**[www.seattle.gov/
dpd/techcodes](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/techcodes)**